

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A check for \$108.00 is enclosed in payment of 6 extra dependent claims.

Claims 2, 3, 15, 16 and 18-26 are withdrawn.

Claims 1, 4-14 and 17 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi (USP 6,485,812).

Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 14 and 17 are rejected over either Sunderrajan USP 6,635,319 or USP 6,347,866).

The claims require that the present invention have an upper ink absorption layer having thermoplastic particles. This means that the thermoplastic particles which are present in the layer are in a form of particles or granules. In other words, the thermoplastic particles in the layer are not melted.

On the other hand, latex in Sekiguchi (USP 6,485,812) and polymer particles in Sunderrajan (USP 6,635,319 or USP 6,347,866) are not in the form of particles.

Most of the kinds of latex disclosed in Sekiguchi are liquid. Further, Sekiguchi discloses that a calendar treatment may be applied after the ink-receiving layer is coated (col. 17, lines 56-59), even if the latex is in particle form before such treatment, the latex will be melted by the calendar treatment.

Appl. No. 10/057,652

Reply to Office Action of April 9, 2004

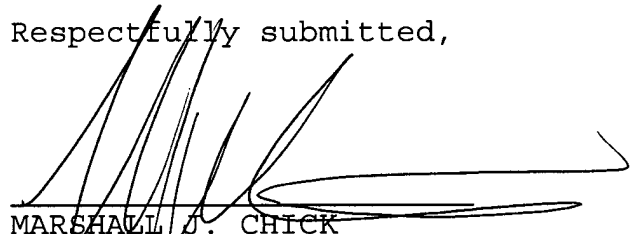
That is, Sekiguchi does not show or suggest having the latex in the layer exist in form of particles.

Similar to the differences discussed above concerning Sekiguchi, Sunderrajan does not have an idea of having the polymer particles exist in form of particles. Sunderrajan discloses that the polymer has a glass transition temperature below about 70°C, preferably below about 50°C (col. 3), and that the ink jet recording element receives the soft-nip calendaring at a temperature of about 65°C and pressure of 14000 kg/m at a speed of from about 0.15 m/s to about 0.3 m/s (col. 4).

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present invention is not shown or suggested by the cited art. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman
& Chick, P.C.
767 Third Ave., 25th Floor
New York, NY 10017-2023
Tel. No. (212) 319-4900
Fax No.: (212) 319-5101
MJC/ld

Respectfully submitted,



MARSHALL J. CHICK
Reg. No. 26,853

Enc. Check for \$108.00 in payment of six (6) extra dependent claims



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appln No. : 10/057,652
Applicant(s): Hidenobu OHYA et al.
Filed : January 25, 2002
For : INK JET RECORDING
MEDIUM...
Art Unit : 1774
Examiner : Bruce H. Hess
Docket No. : 02040/HG
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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Laraine Dobies
Laraine Dobies

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper to Account No. 06-1378.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**FRISHAUF, HOLTZ, GOODMAN
& CHICK, P.C.**
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW
767 THIRD AVENUE, 25TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10017-2023

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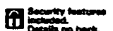
DATE June 25, 2004

PAY TO THE ORDER OF **COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS**

\$ **108.00**

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DOLLARS



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02040/HG - OHYA et al	
USSN 10/057,652	
Fee for 6 extra dependent	
claims	

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& CHICK, P.C.**

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